St. John Greek Orthodox Church

Sterling Heights, Michigan
Phone: 586-977-6080/Emergency 513-508-0386
Web site: www.stjohngoc.net/ Email: parish@stjohngoc.net
Parish Priest: Father Nicolaos Tzetzis

March 15, 2026 ~ Sunday of the Holy Cross

TODAY AT ST. JOHN

8:45AM Orthros ~ 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

❖ The Procession of the Holy Cross

(Sunday School will have classes after the Procession of the Holy Cross)

Memorials:

John Athanas 40 Days, Asimina Glavas 6 months, Eleni Gkiokas 1 year, Fotios Sboukis 6 years, John Doumas 2 years, Katerini Martsouka, Alberta (Elpitha) Kessel 3 years, Joseph Kessel 38 years

❖ Stewardship Presentation

Opportunities for the Week

Monday, March 16

St. John Youth Basketball Practice 6pm @ Greg Grant Sportsplex

Tuesday, March 17

Greek School 4:30pm & Adult Greek School 6:30pm
Great Compline 5:30pm

Wednesday, March 18

Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM

Thursday, March 19

Greek School 4:30pm & Adult Greek School 6:30pm
A conversation about prayers with Fr. Niko 5pm

Friday, March 20

4th Salutations to the Theotokos 6:30pm

Saturday, March 21

St. John Hope, Joy & Little Angels Bowling Event 1pm

Mark your Calendars

Sunday, April 26 ~ **St. John 50th Anniversary Family Reception@ our Hall**

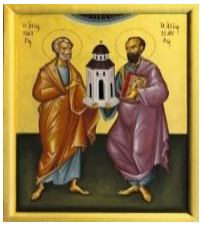
Saturday, May 2 ~ **St. John 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance @ Penna's**

❖ Philoptochos Membership Drive Has Begun for 2026

PLEASE TAKE YOUR 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

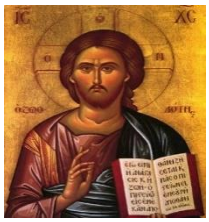
If you do not see your name on an envelope box, but would like to have offering envelopes, please contact the church office@ 586-977-6080.

Epistle Lesson



St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2 Psalm 27.9,1
O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.
The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6
BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also, Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel Lesson



The Gospel According to Mark 8:34-38; 9:1
The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Third Sunday of Lent: Adoration of the Holy Cross

The third Sunday of Lent marks the middle of the Lenten Season. During the early days of the Christian Church, this forty-day Lenten period was the most solemn period of the church year. All Christians maintained a strict fast. Meat, oil and dairy products were strictly forbidden. It was a period of fasting and prayer. Bible reading was accentuated, and every Orthodox Christian performed good works of Christian charity. Many attended "religious retreats" at nearby monasteries and monastic communities. This forty-day period soon became known as a period of self-denial, self-sacrifice and repentance. Christians prepared themselves to suffer the agony undergone by our Savior as he was tempted by the devil in the desert and as he suffered and died upon the Cross of salvation. Since this very same Cross has been the symbol of victory of good over evil, life over death and eternal life over extinction, the Fathers of the Church saw fit to observe the third Sunday of Lent (the half-way mark in Lent) as "Adoration Sunday of the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ." By pausing during this Holy period of fasting, we receive courage and reassurance of God's continued grace by viewing the Cross of Christ. The service is similar to the feast day celebration of the Church.

During today's service, the Cross is carried aloft by the Priest and flowers are distributed after the procession. This is symbolical of the beauty of the Resurrection of our Blessed Lord, which we await to celebrate with great anticipation. During ancient times in many faraway lands the warring Kings, after winning victory on the fields of battle, would invariably dispatch a messenger back to the capital of the country in great haste to inform the people of the great victory and also of the coming triumphant return of the victorious King to the city. In so doing, the people were given the opportunity to prepare a giant celebration and reception for their leader. In the same way the Church, during the Service of the Adoration of the Holy Cross, has brought forward the Cross of Jesus Christ to remind us of the coming victory of Jesus Christ over death and evil. We are given reassurance of the greatest battle and the most significant victory in all human history – the victory of Jesus Christ over death.
The Easter hymn tells us of this victory: "Christ has risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death and bestowing life to those in the tombs." This is the message which the mother Church wishes to convey today. The cross of Jesus Christ has been our symbol of victory for 2000 years. Never lose sight of this – it is ours to share if we but take up arms against the forces of evil that surround us in a materialistic world and labor side by side for a better today and a finer tomorrow for all mankind.

FLOWERS NEEDED FOR THE LENTEN & EASTER SEASON 2026

Please return this form to the church office if you are interested in donating flowers.

Friday – February 27th - 1st Salutation – Carnations
_____ Mary K Tangalos Family _____

Friday – March 6th - 2nd Salutation – Carnations
_____Evan and Robin Stavropoulos _____

Friday – March 13th - 3rd Salutation – Carnations
_____Sophia Borgaonkar_____

Sunday – March 15th - Veneration of the Holy Cross – Daffodils
_____Kalliantasis Family_____

Friday – March 20th – 4th Salutation – Carnations
____ Diamanto Gargasoulas and Dimetra Mansoor ___

Friday – March 27th - Akathist Hymn – Carnations
_____ Collins Family _____

Sunday – April 5th - Palm Sunday – Palm Trees – Crosses
_____

Sunday – April 5th - Palm Sunday - Bay Leaves
_____

Sunday – April 5th - Bridegroom Icon
_____

Monday – April 6th - Bridegroom Icon
_____Dan and Paulette Szajna_____

Tuesday – April 7th - Bridegroom Icon
_____Faye Zoulas Family_____

Wednesday – April 8th - Holy Wednesday Icon
_____

Thursday – April 9th - Holy Thursday – Wreath for the Crucifix
_____

Thursday – April 9th - Holy Thursday Icon
_____

Friday – April 10th - Holy Friday – Epitaphios – Flowers
_____DONATED_____

Crucifix Icon: _____

Resurrection Icon: _____Collins Family_____

Sunday – April 12th - Holy Easter – Resurrection Wreath
____Zingas Family_____

Eggs: _____

Eggs: _____

St. John HOPE, JOY, & Little Angels

let's go bowling!

Saturday, March 21, 1-3pm

Summit Entertainment Center
66600 Van Dyke, Washington

Cost: $20 per bowler (covering bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and pop!)

Please reach out to Megan if cost is a barrier

RSVP by March 14 to
https://tinyurl.com/42fa6ja3
or to Megan at 586-770-6898

SAVE THE DATE

50th Anniversary

METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Family Reception Following Divine Liturgy
St. John The Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Dinner Dance
Penna's of Sterling Heights

Saturday, May 2, 2026

50th Anniversary

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

Dinner Dance
Penna's of Sterling Heights
Saturday, May 2, 2026

Presale Tickets Available Now!

Tickets are available today for only $125 through March 25th. Event tickets will be sold at $150 beginning March 26th,

We hope you will spread the word and share this event with your friends and family near and far. We are hard at work planning a beautifully catered event and historical slideshow intended to honor those who have worked so hard to serve this community for the last 50 years.

This event will also serve as a fantastic opportunity to invite visitors from other parishes and even from our local communities to come and see what our community is all about.

~~$150~~

$125

Until 3/25

bit.ly/50thpresale

Advertise your business through St. John Dear Friends

¼ page	$200
½ page	$300
Full Page	$600

*4 issues per year

Reasons you should consider advertising with St. John:

Dear Friends is revamped with fresh quarterly publications that are growing in readership

Members and staff want to support businesses that support our church

Our readers trust that our church advertisers are honest, reliable businesses

You are reaching a family oriented market comprised predominantly of homeowners

Every church member lives in your community and is a potential customer

Please email us if you are interested!

Payment billed annually

dearfriends@stjohngoc.net

stjohngoc.net/advertising

RHODIAN SOCIETY

EST. 2025

DETROIT • MICHIGAN

CELEBRATING THE SYNAXIS OF

ALL THE SAINTS OF RHODES

Sunday, March 22, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
707 E. Lafayette Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

- Artoklasia & Memorial Service
- Phanouropita Blessing
- Coffee Hour Following Divine Liturgy

Interested in joining the Rhodian Society?

We welcome new members of Rhodian heritage and friends of Rhodes.

- Attend our meetings.
- Celebrate our traditions.
- Preserve our culture.

Email: info@RhodianSocietyDetroit.org

Greek Heritage Night

at Comerica Park

May 5th | Red Sox vs Tigers | 6:40 P.M.

Opa! Celebrate Greek Heritage Night at Comerica Park when the Detroit Tigers battle the Boston Red Sox! Special Ticket Package includes an exclusive Tigers Greek Heritage Jersey.

For purchases of 10 or more tickets, please reach out to Nicholas.Muscarella@olyent.com to unlock additional savings. Go Tigers!

SAINT JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
STERLING HEIGHTS MICHIGAN

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is the management of the gifts bestowed upon us by God. These gifts are time, talent and treasure. It is through these gifts we are brought closer together as a Church and as a community.

WHAT IS A STEWARD?

A steward is a member of our St. John community that volunteers their time, talent and treasure.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER MY TIME AND TALENT?

Our St. John community offers many ministries! To find out more and volunteer, contact the church office.

HOW MUCH TREASURE SHOULD I GIVE?

This is a personal decision. Every year we should look at our finances and determine how much we should give back to God. These funds are used for the daily usage of the church and for funding our ministries.

TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING AT ST. JOHN, THE SUGGESTED MINIMUM STEWARDSHIP FOR AN INDIVIDUAL IS $360 PER YEAR (LESS THAN $1 PER DAY) OR FOR A FAMILY $720 PER YEAR (LESS THAN $1 PER DAY FOR THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE)

PLEASE USE YOUR CREDIT CARD OR YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Name:		Spouse Name:	
Orthodox Christian: Y or N		Orthodox Christian: Y or N	
Date of birth:		Date of birth:	
Email:		Email:	
Home Phone:		Home Phone:	
Cell Phone:		Cell Phone:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
Child 1:	Orthodox Christian: Y or N	Cell:	DOB:
Child 2:	Orthodox Christian: Y or N	Cell:	DOB:
Child 3:	Orthodox Christian: Y or N	Cell:	DOB:
Child 4:	Orthodox Christian: Y or N	Cell:	DOB:
Child 5:	Orthodox Christian: Y or N	Cell:	DOB:

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:

☐ $----------/day ☐$_____/week ☐$_____/month ☐$_____/year

Credit Card (Visa/Master Card): _____ Exp: _____ CSV: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Visit https://www.stjohngoc.net/stewardship-form to register as a Steward or turn this form into our church office.